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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

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## INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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DATE: 25X1X

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. [REDACTED]

PAGES 1 2 June 1947

SUPPLEMENT

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Political Information: Chinese Seamen's Union, Hongkong

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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1. The Chinese Seamen's Union is a recognized employment agency in the major ports of China and its influence extends to the Malay Peninsula, Indochina, and the Philippines. Politically the union is under the Kuomintang but the controlling power is gradually getting into the hands of Communists and members of the Democratic League. Communist influence is quite strong; it is not known how much influence the Democratic League has in the union. Li Chi-shen is quite interested in the union's affairs. In the latter part of March leading members of the union and the Democratic League arrived in Hongkong from Shanghai to hold a conference concerning the activities and reorganization of the union in Hongkong and South China. The leader of this delegation was HUANG Cheng-ting (黄正廷). (It was previously reported that TU Yueh-sheng accompanied YANG Hsiao-tien of the union on a trip to Hongkong in February 1947.)
2. Financially the union is powerful. The large amount of money at its disposal leads to the belief that important and wealthy political figures are interested in it. The union collects 5% of the seamen's basic pay every month plus an additional HK \$.60 monthly fee. The monthly income of the union is over HK \$100,000.
3. All Chinese seamen, whether employed on inland, coastal or trans-ocean steamers, are required to join the union. The union gives its members no promise of continued employment, billeting, pensions, subsistence or any medical attention.
4. All vessels stopping at South China ports where the union has branches must obtain a certificate of departure from the union. This is generally done by the Chinese "compradore" with or without the consent of the steamship company. The union employs inspectors who examine the membership certificates of all disembarking seamen.

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